

SENATE—Wednesday, November 14, 2001

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON S. CORZINE, a Senator from the State of New Jersey.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we praise You for the religious freedom we enjoy in America. Thank You that the fabric of that freedom was woven by lodestar leaders like William Penn who in 1701 published a charter of privileges ensuring that everyone would be given liberty to worship You according to the dictates of his or her beliefs and conscience. We are moved by the fact that the bell celebrating the jubilee founding of Pennsylvania was cast in 1751 and became the Liberty Bell which rang during the first reading of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Last night, an exact replica cast by the same works in England was dedicated to be taken around the Nation and rung. The words cast into this Spirit of Liberty Bell are the same as the original from Leviticus 25:10. "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants." As this Spirit of Liberty Bell rings throughout the land, help us to rededicate ourselves to maintain religious freedom in our own lives. Forgive any prejudice in our hearts and purge from us any vestige of judgmentalism for people whose expression of faith in You differs from our own. As we battle against terrorists and nations who persecute people because of their religious beliefs, help us make America a nation where we live by George Washington's motto: "To bigotry, give no sanction . . . to persecution, no assistance." In Your liberating name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON S. CORZINE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JON S. CORZINE, a Senator from the State of New Jersey, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CORZINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will use my leader time in order to make a statement on the economic recovery-homeland security bill. It is our expectation that we will be introducing the bill in its modified form at about 11:15. But until then, obviously Senators are welcome to address this or other issues in morning business. I invite them to do so.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate conduct a period of morning business for up to 45 minutes, between now and 11:15.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, 5 months ago, America had a projected budget surplus of \$2.7 trillion over the next 10 years. The stock market was soaring. The question before us was one that most leaders could only dream of: "What should we do with our prosperity?"

At that time, the debate was focused on tax cuts—how much, for whom, and could we also provide for America's unmet needs? Regardless of one's view about that debate or its outcome, there can be no doubt that this is a very different moment.

Two months ago, more than 6,000 innocent men and women lost their lives to terrorism. In the weeks since, a wave of anthrax attacks has taken lives, closed offices, and sown fear.

Our President, rightfully, has assembled an international coalition to fight those who attacked us, and those who aided them. We are at war.

The Federal Government is helping those areas destroyed and damaged by the attacks to rebuild. We passed legis-

lation to keep our airlines flying, and to give our law enforcement the tools needed to fight terror.

Our economy, which was already weakening before September 11, has continued to deteriorate.

The question facing America is no longer, "What should we do with our prosperity?" The question now is, "How do we protect our citizens, strengthen an ailing economy, and win this war against terrorism?"

I believe history will judge this Congress by how well we answer that question.

Shortly after September 11, I visited a call center in Rapid City, SD, that handles United Airlines' frequent flyer program. The 235 people there were working hard—helping people get tickets and arranging travel in the chaotic days after September 11. It was a tough job, on the phone hour after hour, helping scared, angry, and confused callers. All they could do was to ask people to be patient and to be understanding.

In the past couple of weeks, nearly 50 of those hard-working employees have lost their jobs. Like most hard-working people in America, these people don't expect or want the government to do anything for them that they can do for themselves. But now, due to no fault of their own—no lack of skill or ambition or work ethic—they are no longer working.

They are not alone. More than 7 million Americans are out of work. Last month, the unemployment rate took its largest jump in 21 years. For too long, we have asked America's laid off workers to be patient and understanding. Too many Americans fear for their future. Because of what our nation has experienced in the last 2 months, they fear for their safety. We need an economic recovery plan that addresses both fears and offers real help.

Today, Democrats are offering a plan that will help bring back America's economic prosperity and help workers who have lost their jobs. It is a plan that strengthens our homeland defense in the process. This is, simply, the right plan for the right time.

In the weeks following the September 11 attacks, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate asked the experts, including Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin: What are the most effective steps we can take to shore up our economy?

Here is what they told us: Put money into the hands of low- and middle-income workers; they are the ones who will spend it quickly. Make sure that